

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 IGA-01 /077 W

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R 241420Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0475

EJVO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, EG, XI, SY, IZ

SUBJECT: YEMENI MISSION TO ARAB STATES

1. DURING FEB 23 CONVERSATION ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS (BEING REPORTED BY SEPTELS) FONMIN ABDULLAH AL-ASNAG INFORMED ME THAT YARG WILL

BE DISPATCHING IN A FEW DAYS MOHAMMAD BASWAINDWA, POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL ON A SPECIAL MISSION TO CAIRO, TRIPOLI, TUNIS, ALGIERS, KHARTOUM, BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS. BASWINDWA WILL BE CARRYING PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT OF THE COMMAND COUNCIL IBRAHIM IL-HAMDI TO HIS FELLOW LEADERS EXPLAINING YEMEN'S CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AS WELL AS SEEKING REACTIONS CONCERNING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ERITREA.

2. WITH REGARD TO FIRST PURPOSE ASNAG INDICATED THAT HARG IS CONCERNED ABOUT NEGATIVE PROPAGANDA BEING CONVEYED THROUGH SOME ARAB NEWS MEDIA ABOUT HAMDI AND THE RECENT CABINET CHANGE HERE
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WHICH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY SEVERAL BEIRUT PAPERS AS AN

AMERICAN-SAUDI PLOT TO REINSTALL REACTIONARY FORCES IN YEMEN. ASNAG STATED THAT BASWINDWA WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO EXPLAIN YEMEN'S UNIQUE INTERNALSITUATION WHICH REQUIRES THAT THE MODERATES AND CONSERVATIVES WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO AVOID POLARIZATION. ASNAG CONTINUED THAT SUCH COOPERATION IS OBVIOUSLY NOT TO THE LIKING OF THE EXTREMISTS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND IN YEMEN AND IT IS THE LATTER WHO ARE SPREADING THESE STORIES ABOUT HAMDI.

3. WITH REGARD TO SITUATION IN ERITREA, ASNAG EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SEVERAL ARAB STATES MIGHT NOW BE TAKING POSITIONS ABOUT SITUATION

THERE WITHOUT HAVING FULL INFORMATION AND ON THE BASIS OF SEEMING PRESTIGIOUS SOLIDARITY.HE WAS PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT THE SO-CALLED ERITREA LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MAY MERELY BE STALKING HORSES OR LEFTIST EXTREMISTS WHO ONCE IN CONTROL WILL BE UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF SOVIET UNION AND WHO THEREFORE WILL POSE SERIOUS DANGER TO YEMEN AND TO SAUDI ARABIA.

4. COMMENT: ASNAG HAS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST EXPRESSED THIS CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN ERITREA PUTTING THEM IN CONTEXT OF WHAT HE SEES AS CURRENT SOVIET EFFORTS TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE IN RED SEA AND INDIAN OCEAN AREA. AS A FORMER ADENI LABOR UNION LEADER AND NATIONALIST HE BELIEVES HE HAS FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF HOW MARXIST-LENIST MOVEMENTS INITIALLY OPERATE BEHIND THE GUISE OF NATIONALISM ON LIST TO SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS LATER. SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOODWILL VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANAA00475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750064-1012
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750218/aaaaaqds.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YEMENI MISSION TO ARAB STATES
TAGS: PFOR, YE, EG, XI, SY, IZ, ET, (AL-ASNAG, ABDULLAH), (BASWAINDWA, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006